



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

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PSC DIRECTS STAFF INVESTIGATION

Jefferson City (July 29, 2004)---At its agenda session today, the Missouri Public Service Commission directed the PSC Staff to further investigate issues surrounding the arrest of a prominent officer of the Cass County Telephone Company by federal authorities earlier this week.

“We have directed Staff to provide us with detailed information regarding the potential impact these allegations could have on Missouri regulated telephone utilities including the Cass County Telephone Company,” stated Commission Chairman Steve Gaw. “The Staff is to include in its review whether any of the federal allegations might impact the current rates Cass County Telephone Company customers are paying,” added Gaw.

In April, the Commission approved an agreement reducing Cass County Telephone revenues by approximately \$320,000, but the Commission stated it was still concerned about a federal criminal indictment against USP&C, a company with alleged ties to the Cass County Telephone Company. The Commission has continued to monitor developments regarding those allegations.

The Public Service Commission continues to work with those Cass County Telephone Company officials involved in the current day-to-day operations of the telephone company to ensure customers are provided with safe and reliable telephone service. “We will work to ensure reliable telephone service is provided to Cass County Telephone Company customers,” added Gaw.

“In addition, we continue to be in contact with the FBI and other federal authorities providing information regarding the PSC Staff earnings investigation conducted on the telephone company last year,” stated Gaw. “We intend to continue to provide that assistance.”

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